

Appl. No. 10/695,631
Amdt. dated December 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2005

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A punch, comprising:
a cutting component that is configured to a shape, the cutting component having a cutting edge and an opposing edge substantially opposite the cutting edge;
a cutting component housing that houses the cutting component, the cutting edge and at least a portion of the opposing edge of the cutting component extending beyond the cutting component housing; and
a handle component extending from the cutting component housing for positioning the punch, and the handle component configured to maintain an approximate orientation of the cutting component relative to a cutting medium.
2. (Original) The punch of Claim 1, wherein the cutting component is a die configured to a shape.
3. (Original) The punch of Claim 2, wherein the die is made from steel rule.
4. (Original) The punch of Claim 3, wherein the steel rule has a first end and a second end; and the first end and the second end are aligned.
5. (Original) The punch of Claim 4, wherein the steel rule first end and second end are secured.
6. (Original) The punch of Claim 5, wherein the steel rule first end and second end are secured by welding.
- 7-11. (Canceled)

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12. (Original) The punch of Claim 1, wherein the handle component includes a grip.

13. (Original) The punch of Claim 12, wherein the grip comprises a material that absorbs shock.

14-20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A punch assembly, comprising:
a handle end and an opposite punch holding end;
the punch holding end holding a punch die which extends beyond a cutting side of the punch holding end; and

the handle end includes a sleeve with the thickness of the sleeve being approximately equal to one-half of the distance that the punch die extends from the cutting side of the punch holding end.

22. (Original) The punch assembly of Claim 21, wherein the punch assembly includes indicia identifying the cutting side of the punch assembly.

23. (Original) The punch assembly of Claim 21, wherein the punch die is made of steel rule.

24. (Currently Amended) A punch assembly, comprising:
a cutting component that is configured to a shape, the cutting component having a cutting edge and an opposing edge substantially opposite the cutting edge;

a cutting component housing that houses the cutting component, the cutting edge and at least a portion of the opposing edge of the cutting component extending beyond the cutting component housing;

a handle component extending from the cutting component housing for positioning the punch, and the handle component configured to maintain an approximate orientation of the cutting component relative to a cutting medium; and

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a cutting pad adapted to be positioned so that the cutting pad is adjacent to the cutting component when in use.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The punch assembly of claim 1, wherein the cutting component housing is configured to allow a force to be applied directly to the cutting component.

27. (Previously Presented) The punch assembly of claim 1, wherein the cutting component housing is configured to allow a hammer to apply a cutting force to the cutting component.

28. (Previously Presented) The punch assembly of claim 1, further comprising a sleeve covering at least a portion of the handle component, the sleeve configured to cooperate with the handle component to limit a cutting depth of the cutting component.

29. (Previously Presented) A punch assembly, comprising:
a punch holding end having a top side and opposing cutting side;
a punch die positioned in the punch holding end and having a cutting edge that extends beyond the cutting side of the punch holding end; and
a handle extending from the punch holding end and configured, at least in part, to limit a cutting depth of the punch die.

30. (Previously Presented) The punch assembly of claim 29, further comprising a sleeve covering at least a portion of the handle, and at least a portion of the sleeve configured to cooperate with the handle to limit the cutting depth of the punch die.

31. (Previously Presented) The punch assembly of claim 29, wherein the punch die extends beyond the top side of the punch holding end.

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32. (Previously Presented) The punch assembly of claim 29, wherein a side of the punch die opposite the cutting edge is configured to directly receive a cutting force.

33. (Previously Presented) The punch assembly of claim 29, wherein the handle is configured to substantially maintain an orientation of the cutting die relative to a cutting medium.